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Letter dated 11 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The signing of the Declaration concerning the peace protocols by the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Nairobi on 5 June 2004 constitutes an outstanding landmark in the modern history of the Sudan that was welcomed by the Sudan, the African continent and the international community alike.

In this context, resolution 1547 (2004), adopted by the Security Council today, constitutes an embodiment of the interest of the international community in this important development.

As a confirmation by my country of the significance and future implications of that historic event, I would have addressed to you the annexed letter, having expressed the wish to take part in the debate with a statement, under article 37 of the provisional rules of procedure and in accordance with the Council's earlier practice in similar cases. We were somewhat taken aback, however, by your decision that permission for us to participate in the session did not entitle us to deliver a statement, on the grounds that there was no precedent for it. We are aware, however, that numerous precedents exist and that this would be in no way contrary to the regulations. I met with you in person shortly before the start of the session in order to re-examine your decision and you promised to consult the members of the Council with a view to a decision on the matter. We were surprised to find that the session was held, as you know, without our being given an opportunity to deliver our statement.

We believe we have the right to give a statement during the session, considering that the members agreed to our participation in it. Regarding your address to the members in that regard at the start of the session, when you mentioned permission for the delegation of the Sudan to participate in the discussion, what does "participate in the discussion" mean? Does it simply mean sitting and listening without proffering a word by way of participation in the discussion? I am sorry to have to express to you feelings of profound distress and disappointment over your decision to deprive a Member State of participation in the debate on a vital issue concerning its fate, for this is totally at odds with the most fundamental rules of justice and transparency. I wish to transmit to you herewith the statement of the Sudan on the topic of today's session.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 11 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by Ambassador Elfatih Erwa Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations

before the Security Council
at the session at which the resolution on peace in the Sudan was adopted

New York, June 2004

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure for me to speak to this august Council today about a historic event that we have long awaited. Indeed, the untiring efforts of the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement and the continuous and much appreciated support of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) under the sponsorship of Kenya and our other friends in the international community were crowned with the signing by the two parties, last 27 May, of six protocols, an event which signifies agreement between the parties on all the issues constituting the foundations of peace. All they need do now is incorporate all the protocols signed since the 2002 Machakos Protocol into a comprehensive agreement. Consequently, what took place at Naivasha signals the end of the war that has plagued my country for decades.

The achievement of this peace that fills us with happiness today was long awaited. We realized that the lengthy process of negotiation sometimes involved frustrations, but we were also aware that lasting peace must be complete and comprehensive, leaving no loose ends, so as to avoid greater frustrations in the future owing to unresolved flaws in the accords. Perhaps one of the main factors that make us optimistic that the peace will last is that the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, the signatories to the peace accord, will shortly become partners in a single Government that will watch over the implementation of the agreement.

Mr. Chairman, since the issuance of the first presidential statement of your august Council, we in the Sudan have engaged in constant consultations with the Secretariat of the United Nations. Those consultations have been characterized by close cooperation, dialogue and full transparency, with a view to bringing about mutual understanding of the role to be undertaken by the Organization in supporting the implementation of the signed peace accord. Though that role is to be defined by the parties in a comprehensive peace agreement, I am happy to express our complete satisfaction with the results derived from our consultations with the United Nations up to now and with the method and the approach adopted by the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in the related preparations and planning.

The draft resolution before you refers to paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report, which speaks of the existence of other foci of tension that may cast their shadow over the peace process in the Sudan. I assure you that the Government

of the Sudan is eager and determined to deal with the situation in Darfur and elsewhere, for it is absolutely convinced that peace in the country consists of a whole that cannot be broken into parts. Here I refer specifically to the statement by the President of the Republic, Omer Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir, to the effect that peace will not be complete without a peaceful settlement of the problem of Darfur.

Over the years, the Government of the Sudan has constantly called for a ceasefire as a key to the creation of a suitable climate for peace negotiations. Time has shown the wisdom of that view through the peace process in the South, where the total cessation of warring activities over the past two years helped to create the necessary climate for the provision of humanitarian aid, the elimination of the suffering of the citizens and the peaceful negotiation of a solution, leading us to the present historical juncture.

Consequently, as we seek to achieve a peaceful settlement of the problem of Darfur, we believe in the importance of a ceasefire to permit the provision of humanitarian assistance to those in need and the return of refugees and displaced persons to their own regions; to enable the Government to neutralize unruly groups and promote respect for the State; and, even more important, to create a wholesome climate for peace negotiations, as has taken place in the South. I wish to reaffirm to you my Government's commitment to the ceasefire agreement and its wholehearted desire for the success of the ceasefire monitoring mechanism under the supervision of the African Union in Darfur.

On the subject of threats to the peace process and stability in the Sudan, as we commend the spirit of cooperation shown by the countries of the region we may at the same time draw attention to references in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report to the role of neighbouring countries in spoiling the process. We are referring to one neighbouring State in particular, namely Eritrea, which has insisted on remaining an instrument of sabotage of peace in the Sudan, seeking to encourage, embrace, prepare and equip groups bent on disrupting its security and stability. President Omer al-Bashir referred to this in his statement to the African Union. We appeal to the Council not to be unmindful of such activities and to take the necessary action to discourage and put a stop to them.

The raising of banners of peace in the Sudan will enable my country to devote itself to using its efforts to build the Sudanese nation and achieve well-being for the Sudanese people. It will enable the Sudan to assume an effective role in the African context, supporting and encouraging the winds of change sweeping over the Continent under the leadership of the fledgling African Union and promoting the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in which the people of the Continent have placed their hope for a bright tomorrow.

Peace, which is our concern here today, will also enable the Sudan to interact constructively with the international community at all levels — politically and economically as well as in the area of peace and security. We feel confident that the international community, which has stood by the side of the Sudan through years of war, encouraging its efforts towards peace and making memorable contributions to the alleviation of the war's humanitarian consequences, will continue its solidarity with my country in its journey on the path of peace and reconstruction. I assure you that you will find in the Sudan a faithful and responsible partner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.